

# **WINTER WEATHER**

## **SURFACE WALK AND TALK WINTER ALERTS/SAFETY TALK BULLETIN**

### **Mine specific Information – Violations/Orders**

- **Ground Control Compliance History (45.1-161.287 A)**
- **Work Area Examination Compliance History (45.1-161.256 A)**
- **Fire Prevention Compliance History (45.1-161.265 & 267)**
- **Surface Equipment( 45.1-161.268 A)**
- **From October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2014, all serious accidents in Virginia resulted from (1) accident classification:**
  - ✓ **HAULAGE (Belt Conveyor) ----- 1**
- Freezing and Thawing conditions affect highwall stability. Watch for loose and falling rocks when working near highwalls. Never position yourself between equipment and highwalls.
- Frost, ice, snow and mud on steps and catwalks increase slip and fall hazards. Use caution when traveling elevated walkways and mounting and dismounting equipment. Always use handrails.
- Keep windshields, windows and mirrors on all mobile equipment free of frost, ice, snow and mud for a clear line of vision. Control coal dust with frequent and liberal applications of rock dust. Maintain water sprays and other coal dust suppression devices in good working condition.
- Icy and muddy conditions increase braking time and distance needed to control heavy mobile equipment. Equipment operator should think ahead when operating in these conditions. Remember: Always wear seatbelts when equipment is in motion.
- Use caution when troubleshooting batteries and jump-starting equipment. Battery problems are common during winter weather. When jump starting equipment be sure to position yourself safely, use proper electrical connections and adequate size boosting cables, and wear proper protective equipment (gloves, safety glasses, etc.)
- Hypothermia slows reaction time and can kill. Dress for the weather but watch heavy clothing that may interfere with your mobility, vision or hearing. Also watch bulky clothing around electric heaters, open flames and machinery.